

Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 83-3

Title: Disposition of Unclaimed Bodies

Date Adopted: June 14, 1983

Effective Date: June 14, 1983

Reference: Ch. 245.06, F.S.

Policy Superseded: N/A

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that:

1. When the County comes into possession of an unclaimed dead body, it shall:
 - a. make every reasonable effort to determine the identity of the body;
 - b. make every reasonable effort to contact any relatives of such deceased person, and
 - c. contact the Division of Universities of the Department of Education, unless such notification has been waived.
2. No such body shall be buried at County expense if:
 - a. the body is claimed by a relative of blood or marriage;
 - b. any friend or representative of a fraternal society of which the deceased was a member, or a representative of any charitable or religious organization, or a governmental agency which was providing residential care to the indigent persons at the time of death claims the body to bury at their expense; or
 - c. the deceased person was an honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the state, who served between the dates of April 6, 1917 and July 2, 1921; December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945; June 25, 1950 and February 1, 1955; or August 4, 1964 and May 7, 1975, in which case the body shall be buried in accordance with the provisions of law for veterans.

3. If the body is an unclaimed indigent and is not a veteran, the County, no sooner than fourteen (14) days after coming into possession of the body, shall cause the body to be buried at public expense.
4. If the body is unclaimed, not a veteran, but not an indigent by County guidelines:
 - a. the County, no sooner than fourteen (14) days after coming into possession of the body, shall cause the body to be buried in the least costly but proper manner;
 - b. funds of the deceased shall be used to defray the costs of burial; and
 - c. any funds remaining after burial expenses shall be retained by the County for claim by a proper party for a period of one (1) year, after which time such funds will become the property of the County.
5. The times set forth in paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall be extended to no less than thirty (30) days in the event the body cannot be identified.